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MR. SPEAKER :—" Since the hon. Member Sri T. Lakshminarayana Reddi himself has put both the following questions and they also relate to the same subject, the Hon. Minister may reply to both of them straightway."

Number of buses plying from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram, Anantapur district.

* 716 *Q.*—SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of buses plying from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram via Nuthimadugu and Mamillapally;

(*b*) whether there were representations from bus-owners of Anantapur district to give permission for some more buses on these routes; and

(*c*) how many times this subject was placed on the agenda of the District Traffic Committee?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Two buses are plying on the entire portion of the route Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram via Nuthiamadugu and Mamillapally.

" (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*c*) I suppose the proposal was placed before the Regional Transport Authority, Anantapur, only once on 9th December 1952."

New bus route between Kalyandrug and Dharmavaram.

* 717 *Q.*—SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a new bus route was opened from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram via Nuthimadugu and Mamillapally in 1953;

(*b*) if so, who were the applicants; and

(*c*) why the proposal was dropped at the time of granting the permit?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" Is it not a fact that the Government, because the shares of the existing company are being owned by a relation of a Congress M.P., allowed the company to continue and refused the request of the public in the locality to open a new bus route, to avoid congestion? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am not aware of the company or the Congress M.P. I am to say that the Government did carefully enquire into the matter and came to the conclusion that the route from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram

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could not be called a new route as no section of it had been left unserved and as a matter of fact a regular bus route was there serving the entire locality. Moreover our enquiry revealed that the existing bus route was not overcrowded and as a matter of fact during the latter half of 1952, there was less traffic. Therefore Government had to set aside the order of the Regional Transport Officer for the opening of a new bus route from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In the matter of granting of bus permits in Anantapur or elsewhere in the State is it a fact, Sir, that the Government encourage major capitalists and fleet owners rather than the minor capitalists and non-fleet owners?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The only consideration that always weighs with the Government is to verify the capacity of the bus-owners to provide enough seating accommodation and other amenities for the passengers consistent with the rush."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is there any particular difficulty for the Government in giving permits for these bus routes freely rather than restricting its scope?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member may be aware that at the time the question of levying a surcharge on bus passengers was discussed in this House, member after member got up and said that in view of the excessive taxation, these permits must not be given indiscriminately and thus the Government should not swell the list of existing bus-owners."

9 a.m. SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" It is not a question of issuing permits indiscriminately but here it is a question of indiscriminate neglect in the matter of issue of permits. Because only two buses are plying and the two buses are being unofficially overloaded, will the Government consider once again the issue of permits for more buses on this route and if they cannot, may I know the reasons why this cannot be done, Sir?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I said just now, though the whole route is served by two buses this particular sector is served by seven buses and no case of overloading has been brought to the notice of the Government. If the hon. Member will bring cases of overloading to the notice of the Government or bring in a petition saying that there is so much overloading the Government will certainly take action not only for prosecuting the owners but also will consider the question of issue of further permits on this route."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that in cases where the buses are owned by local Congress bosses, the Police refuse to charge them for overloading?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am not aware of any such incident but if the hon. Member will bring it to the

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notice of the Government, Government will certainly take action against the Congress or non-Congress people, who happen to be the owners."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" I hope the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that on this route, not taking into account the particular sector, only two buses are plying and the people who want to travel cannot choose any other route because the number of buses is only two and so the needs of the people are not satisfied; that is a simple fact for which no report or enquiry is necessary. The simple reason is that a particular influential man happens to be the owner and the allegation is that permission for more buses is refused for that reason. So, might I ask if the Government will consider the question of increasing the number of buses without taking the particular sector into consideration? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Before the question is answered, might I hope that hon. Members opposite coming from the Andhra areas will not quote the long argumentations with which they preface a question, as a precedent, in the new Assembly? "

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" The Hon. the Chief Minister is always trying to give us advice and we will take it for what it is worth? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have already stated the facts as lie in my hands and I am afraid that if I am to listen to the hon. Member charges will be made that I am partial to one party or another."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Will the Government consider the question of issuing a permit for one more bus on this route at least to avoid the accusation that the Government are countenancing or supporting the actions of their own partymen? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Under the Motor Vehicles Act the suggestion of my hon. Friend has not been mentioned as one of the reasons for which further permits could be issued; simply because the permit-owner is a particular person belonging to the Congress party, just to refute what others might say about it, we are not justified in giving a permit to anybody else."

Visit of Hon. Ministers to Malampuzha Project.

* 718 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Ministers visited Malampuzha Project since its inception up to the end of 1952;

(*b*) how many times the same Minister visited the project; and

(*c*) how many Ministers jointly visited the project and on how many occasions?